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Many Americans in China Are Likely to Stay There

By KEYES BEECH

Chicago Daily News Foreign Service

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TOKYO. RELEASE of the four American pilots leaves about 100 Americans still in Communist China. Seven of them are also air force pilots whose release can be expected as Peiping pursues its "get soft" policy.

Most of the others would jump at the chance to leave but are held prisoners or hostages. About 30 are working for the Communists or are so deeply involved with them that they cannot or dare not come home.

Two were sentenced to long prison terms as spies. They are George Fecteau, 28, and John Thomas Downey, 25, husky Yaleman and college wrestler. Both were identified by Peiping as CIA agents.

Fecteau and Downey were shot down over Manchuria on Nov. 29, 1952. According to the U.S. air force, they were passengers on a routine flight from Seoul to Tokyo, a geographical impossibility if they were shot down in Manchuria.

AT LEAST 24 Americans are known to be in jail and four others presumed in prison or under house arrest. Five of these are women. Four have died since 1951 as a result of mistreatment in prison.

Eleven Americans are by free choice working for the Communists or semi-official agencies. Twenty others — one died — are the GIs who refused repatriation in Korea and are "working and studying" somewhere in China.

One American, Hugh Francis Redmond, a Shanghai businessman, was sentenced to life imprisonment on espionage charges when he remained there after the Communist takeover.

AMONG Americans willingly working for the Communists are Talitha Gerlach, a returned to China three years ago as a "delegate" to the Asian-Pacific peace confer-

ence, and Gerald Tannenbaum, the first American granted permission to visit Peiping after the Communists occupied Shanghai. Both are in welfare work.

Two more are Donald Kemp, former free-lance photographer, and W. H. Hsley, another delegate to the 1952 peace conference.

Three American women married to Chinese citizens are reported teaching in Communist universities.

Erwin Engst and his wife, another delegate to the Asian peace conference, are managing a livestock experimental center in northwest China. Sidney Shapiro, a young Shanghai lawyer, is married to a prominent Communist artist and living in Peiping.

The best-known American still in China is George Hatem, formerly Mao Tse-tung's personal physician. Married to a Chinese, Hatem has lived with the Communists for nearly 20 years. But he reportedly still cherishes a long-expired American passport.



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